



## NOTICE.

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VERNOR and His Royal Highness the  
DUKE of EDINBURGH,  
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DRUGGISTS  
PERFUMERS,  
PATENT MEDICINE VENDORS,  
DRUGGISTS' SUPPLYMEN,  
And  
CREATED WATER MAKERS.  
SHIPS' MEDICINE CHESTS REPAINTED,  
PASSENGER SHIPS SUPPLIED.

NOTICE.—To avoid delay in the execution of the order it is particularly requested that all business communications be addressed to the Firm A. S. Watson and Co., or HONGKONG DISPENSARY. [21]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.  
All letters for publication should be written on one side of the paper.  
Advertisements and Subscriptions which are not ordered for a fixed period will be continued until unclaimed.

Orders for extra copies of the *Daily Press* should be sent before 11 a.m. on the day of publication. After that hour the supply is limited.

## The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, SEPTEMBER 15TH, 1885.

In a few weeks more the session of the Legislative Council will open. One of the subjects which we trust will engage the attention of our local Parliament is that of direct telegraphic communication between this colony and Singapore. That any immediate practical result will be attained we are hardly sanguine enough to expect, but this is precisely one of those questions which require a good deal of "pegging away at" before a satisfactory settlement is attained. Because war with Russia has for the time averted the matter ought not to be allowed to sink into oblivion. No one knows how soon the next war scare may arise. Our care in the meantime ought to be that when it does come it shall not find us unprepared. It is in times of peace that arrangements for repelling attack should be perfected. There is a tendency to defer these until the emergency appears imminent, and then the difficulties are increased a thousand-fold. Let us suppose, for argument's sake, that the late difficulty with Russia had eventuated in war, and let us suppose, also, that the home Government had recognised the iniquities of Hongkong's representation as to direct telegraphic communication between this colony and Singapore; it is extremely problematical whether the cable could have been completed between the time when, in the hypothetical case we put forward, war might have been declared and the time when the necessity for direct communication might have been forcibly demonstrated. It is, therefore, the duty of the unofficial Members of Council to do their best to see that the next scare when it arrives does not find us in the same state of unpreparedness in this respect as the last. It is satisfactory to note that this question of direct telegraphic communication is not being lost sight of by the Australian colonies. What is wanted, we read in a home paper, "an alternative line to Australia by the Cape of Good Hope and Mauritius, as it is felt that in case of war with Russia the Suez Canal and Red Sea cable would certainly be cut." Let us say rather that an attempt would be made to cut the Red Sea cable, for we trust our fleet would be able to maintain such an effective watch on the enemy's ships as to give them no chance of getting it up, but none the less prudence demands that we should be prepared in the event of the attempt proving successful. The *Globe*, referring to the proposed alternative Australian line, says:—"Once again hardly helping with that of the growth of the colonies there is a very decided increase in their attachment to their country, as if their augmented wealth and expanding trade led them to place more value than ever on the Imperial connection, instead of giving rise to aspirations after independence. The establishment and secure maintenance of cheap telegraphic communication between England and her colonies is indispensable for the good government of the empire, and is the nearest possible approach to the material accomplishment of Imperial unity." The alternative line to Australia would mean also an alternative line to Hongkong and India, for in the event of the Red Sea cable being cut messages could then be sent via Australia to Singapore and thence to India or to this colony as the case might be." But after a Hongkong message has arrived at Singapore it is still liable to interception by reason of the cable's touching French territory at Cape St. James. In the event of war with France the existing communication would be severed as a matter of course. It is difficult to conceive how the Admiralty could fail to recognise the paramount importance of direct communication between the two colonies, but, as our readers will remember, it was this department of the Imperial Government that pronounced against the scheme. Had the verdict of the Admiralty been different there is little doubt the scheme would have been approved, as, from the remarks of Lord Derby on the subject in the House of Lords on the 14th April last, the Government as a whole was rather favourably disposed towards it, "or were at least not unfavourable; nothing, therefore, that can be done in the way of representation and agitation to convert this obstructive department of the Government ought to be left undone. Hitherto cable laying has been conducted on purely commercial principles, and it is to the interests of the proprietors that the lines should touch at as many points as possible when there is traffic to be obtained, irrespective of whether these points be on British territory or not, but Imperial interest demands that the telegraphic communication of the Empire should be placed entirely beyond the control of foreign powers.

The German gunboat *Nauvitus*, Captain Röder, left Nagasaki for Yokohama on the 2nd instant.

The following additional subscription to the Kwangtung Inundation Relief Fund has been received.—United Service Lodge 1341—353.

The Agent informs us that the *Anglo-Hungarian* Lloyd's steamer *Orion*, from Trieste, left Singapore for this port on the afternoon of the 13th inst.

We note by a Sydney telegram in a Queensland paper that all hope of the safety of the German corvette *Augusta*, bound out to Australia, has been given up in that city, where it is feared that the vessel and most of her crew must have perished.

Assistant-Paymaster Hughes, of the British corvette *Cleopatra*, laid at the Government Hospital, Nagasaki, from the British Hospital, Nagasaki, from the British Hospital, Nagasaki, on the 1st instant, and was buried in the Foreign Cemetery at that port on the afternoon of the 2nd inst.

The *Oraka Nippo* has the following very doubtful story:—"It is reported that the cholera epidemic at Nagasaki originated with a Japanese sailor who contracted the disease from a patient on board a British war vessel lying in the harbour. We also hear that many of the cases are attributed to eating large quantities of water melons."

Admiral Fong, of the Chinese navy, arrived in Hongkong on Saturday afternoon from the gunboat *Yantze* from Foochow, where he had been in command of a fort and garrison. Yesterday he went to China, Keelung to inspect the small fort lately erected there and the soldiers in garrison. He will leave for Swatow to-day, the 15th instant, to make an inspection of the newly-erected fort at that port.

The *Nagasaki Evening Sun* says:—"The building, etc., constituting the Russian Naval Yard, Nagasaki, from the British Hospital, Nagasaki, has been completely destroyed and is now in a ruined condition. It is reported that the Russian Naval Authorities were, after all, unable to come to terms with the owner of the ground, and have therefore broken up their establishment at Nagasaki.

We have received a copy of the programme of the forthcoming assault-at-arms of Murray Barracks by the Garrison of Hongkong. The Committee consists of Majors Hamilton and Jackson, The Buffs; Major Riddall, R.A.; Lieut. Brookes, R.A.; Lieuts. D' Athé and Lloyd, The Buffs. A Sub-Committee has also been formed.

The programme contains twenty events as follows:—Boxing, D' Athé, and Lloyd, The Buffs; Sizl, Conib, Sing, Sizl, and Meles, Bayonet v. Bayonet; Indian Club; Quarter Staff; Vaulting Horse. An interval of fifteen minutes occurs here, during which will be performed a series of interesting Cavalry Evolutions. The second half of the programme is then made up:—Boxing and Meles, Bayonet Exercise; Fencing; Single Stick and Meles, Bayonet; Sing, Sizl, and Meles, Bayonet; Ancient Combat; Vaulting Horse; a Grand Artillery Fencing competition. Tickets for admission, 8/- each, can be obtained from Messrs. Lane, Crawford & Co., Messrs. Kelly and Walsh, the Hall Porter, Club Germans, and the Mess Sergeant, Murray Barracks.

Meles, Bayonet, and the other events will be performed by the Garrison of Hongkong, and the spectators are invited to witness the same.

The report of the work of the Committee is as follows:—The Committee has already given a great deal of time and trouble to the preparation and agitation to convert this obstructive department of the Government ought to be left undone. Hitherto cable laying has been conducted on purely commercial principles, and it is to the interests of the proprietors that the lines should touch at as many points as possible when there is traffic to be obtained, irrespective of whether these points be on British territory or not, but Imperial interest demands that the telegraphic communication of the Empire should be placed entirely beyond the control of foreign powers.

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but we are not at all surprised to hear that he has done so. To the soldier's mind, this would naturally be the simplest and most straightforward way of getting out of a difficulty which seems otherwise inextricable. The substitution of one puppet monarch for another, in the anarchic condition of the country, and in presence of the common hatred of the French felt by the whole body of the Annamite mandarins, seems a rather hopeless experiment. Yet this, apparently, is what the French Ministry considers the best course to adopt. General de Courcy is not to annex the country to France, but, if necessary, he may dethrone the young King Ham-nghi. Though the Reuter's telegram does not state this in so many words, the inference is that if the present King (whose actions are controlled by Regents) proves intractable, a successor to him must be found who will prove more pliant. But the French Government, like the British Government in many instances in the colonies, appears to have little appreciation of the actual position of affairs in Annam. It matters little what prince is placed on the throne at Hué so long as the scheming mandarins are free to conspire against French authority in secret and to carry on a war of extermination against the Christians. A King selected by the French General or Resident is not likely to have much influence over the native officials, even if he has the desire to exercise it in favour of France. The French Government do not realise the situation; they cannot put themselves in General de Courcy's place, and they will not see with his eyes. The truth is the French entered upon their colonial enterprise with a light heart, believing that the cost would not be great or the difficulties many. They held the Hovas and the Annamites cheaply, and believed that a few thousand French troops could march both through Madagascar and Tonquin; that the French Generals, emulating the victory of Jutras at CARA over PHARANCES, would merely have to go, see, and conquer. Now, however, that the Government finds its colonial schemes are involving France in serious wars, the end of which cannot be described, and the cost of which cannot be estimated when disaster following disaster is creating impatience and disgust in the minds of the French nation, who like to pay for results and are impatient of failures; they hesitate to carry their policy to its logical conclusion. Affairs in Annan have clearly reached a crisis, in which unswerving firmness is vital to the future success of French projects in Indo-China. The French Generals seem inclined to make a good deal of "pegging away at" before a satisfactory settlement is attained.

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## EXTRACT.

A SWEETHEART'S SUGGESTION.

Fat Roily was taking a ride  
On an elegant summer morning,  
And Kathleen sat close by his side,  
Bright smiles her face adorning,  
And she looked so tidy and neat,  
Her figure so plump and trim,  
No girl had so pretty and sweet  
Had ever appeared to him.

Said Pat: "Your eyes are blue  
And your lips temptingly red,  
They're the prettiest I ever knew  
And belong to the fellow I've met."
"Ah! darling, if it wasn't this late  
That's all I can say to you."
They would fainthold poor arms apart,  
And you'll be pressed to my heart.
"For my love's that powerful indea  
Would you not come to me?"
Then Kathleen blushed and said  
"Mr. Roily, perhaps, I could drive!"

"DRINK AND THE DRAMA."

The following communication from Miss

Beatrice Grey is published in the *Theatre*:

"The habits of theatrical audiences have

been commented on by writers in all ages

ever since the theatre became an institution,

and not a little satire has been levelled

against them. And one of the most common

complaints has been that great deal of

unnecessary refreshment was taken in the

theatre, though the wine and cake of classic

times was excusable when a performance

sometimes lasted 12 hours, and people naturally

took their meals with them. Coming to later days, however, we find the tipping

habits of those who frequented the lobbies

and crush-rooms commented upon with much

severity, and evidently not without reason.

It is not intended in this article to go into

historical details concerning this habit,

though they could be easy to accumulate,

but to point out that whatever were the

faults of our fore-fathers in this respect, we

have certainly not mended matters. If we

may judge from the habits of a great many

people who frequent theatres at the present

day, they go to the playhouses mainly for the

purpose of inhaling a certain amount of

stimulants and smoking cigarettes.

The moment an act is over, young and old, boys

who are under age and mature men who

ought to know better, rush off to the refresh-

ment-room, light up cigarettes, and order

drinks and soda. It seems as if the average

Englishman could not exist for the short

space of a couple of hours or so without

those consolations; and the intelligent

foreigner, if ever he looks into this matter,

must be unfeignedly astonished at our habits.

For remember that these worn and thirsty

souls who rush to the bars when they have

travelled for days in the desert might do to

a stream in an oasis has, as a rule, just had

their dinners, and it is fair to assume, quite

as much to eat and drink as was requisite

to restore exhausted nature. As a rule, then,

the first rush for refreshment is made little

more than an hour after the last glass of

wine has been taken at dessert, or the yellow

Chartreuse sipped with the coffee. These

vices have not even the animal excuse of

hunger and thirst; both have been assuaged

a short time before; and as to smoking,

surely a man who has had a post-prandial

cigar, or even only a cigarette in the case

of his way to the theatre, can exist for longer

than 60 minutes without more tobacco.

And, despite all that has been written and

said on the subject, these habits of drinking

and smoking at theatres are on the increase,

as any one can satisfy himself who cares to

explore the refreshment room of a popular

theatre whenever there happens to be a good

house. He will find a crowd surging round

the bars, after the fashion of that in a low

public house just before closing time, until

it will begin to wonder which is the greater

attraction—the play or the opportunities for

imitating stimulants by no means remarkable

as a rule, for purity. Such being the

habits of a great many playgoers, it is not to

be wondered at that the manager—who is,

after all, but the servant of the public—

endeavours, as best he may, to cater for such

strange tastes. We find, then, in all theatres

nowadays a vast amount of space set apart

for the drinking bars and smoking rooms,

meeting you at every turn, which might be

very better utilized in making the audience more comfortable. Thus it happens that the

want of space, which is forced upon you

by the discomfort of having a man

crush pass you in the stalls on his way to

the refreshment room, is partly caused by

the very bare which minister to his libidinous

propensities. And, seeing that the great

difficulty in a modern theatre is to obtain

proper room for each person, and gangways

between the seats that shall make ingress

and egress easy, it is rather hard to have

valuable space occupied by bars and smoking

rooms which, if thrown into the auditorium,

would make all the difference between com-

fort and discomfort. Some theatres are, of

course, worse than others, and those need not be particularised, but it is not satisfactory to find that the most recently built

houses are those in which the largest amount

of space is reserved for the indulgence of tastes other than those of theatrical primarity.

intended to gratify. And here we may point

to another objection to smoking which will

not be long before taken cognisance of by the

insurance companies. Smokers are prever-

bially careless, and there can be nothing

more dangerous than the bite of half-

consumed cigarettes which are scattered all

over the place when the bell rings to an-

ounce the opening of another act—sad

distraction, it must be allowed, to the peace-

of Scots Fusslers. The little place looks very

pretty, and outside all are the dry, long

grass and the ugly dugongs. One dugong with

water runs close to the stone steps which

lead into the cemetery, and an embankment

has just been put up to prevent the water

from washing away the foundations of the

wall which runs all round the enclosure, and

on the top of which are planted aloes. About

40 yards off is the maize garden (the krali

is now gone) where the Prince roamed. He

seems to have been getting away on foot

when he was killed, his horse having broken

from him. The river Ityan is about 100

yards below the garden. The ground slopes

to the river, where people coming up from it

could not be seen through the long grass.

The crest of the hill on the other side of the

river, where the Zulma were first seen, is

about a quarter of a mile off, but they could

make a circuitous hidden approach. The

place is four hours' ride from Borka's Drift,

or more, and in a desolate part of the coun-

try.

A correspondent writes to the *Madras Mail*:

In addition to several letters recently published

in your paper, concerning cruelty to animals, I

may say that another very cruel and inhuman

act of ceremony is, I believe, carried on in the

interior of Mysore and in other parts of India

where the *Shikar* (hunting) games exist.

I am told that a number of men

would be sent to the

interior of the country to

kill the animals.

A correspondent writes to the *Calcutta*

newspaper:

"A SWEETHEART'S SUGGESTION.

Fat Roily was taking a ride

On an elegant summer morning,

And Kathleen sat close by his side,

Bright smiles her face adorning,

And she looked so tidy and neat,

Her figure so plump and trim,

No girl had so pretty and sweet

Had ever appeared to him.

Said Pat: "Your eyes are blue

And your lips temptingly red,

They're the prettiest I ever knew

And belong to the fellow I've met."

"Ah! darling, if it wasn't this late

That's all I can say to you."

They would fainthold poor arms apart,

And you'll be pressed to my heart.

"For my love's that powerful indea

Would you not come to me?"

Then Kathleen blushed and said

"Mr. Roily, perhaps, I could drive!"

just because the latter characteristic is so rare nowadays that true politeness is becoming almost extinct among us. An arrogant contempt for the comfort of anybody but himself is the distinctive mark of the 'old and ousted Assyrian bull' of the period, and it is nowhere more conspicuous than in the stalls of a theatre. We are not speaking in haste when we say that there is very often more courtesy and consideration shown by those among the audience who are strangers to each other, in the gallery and pit than in the stalls."

NELSON'S FIRST COMMAND.

Mored close in shore at Simon's Bay, Capo of Good Hope, in very shallow water, lest she might spring a leak and go down, unawares, used to lie old *Baldy*, a vessel with a great history, now degraded to the condition of a more moving lump. More than a hundred years ago (1778), she was Lord Nelson's first command. He was at the time first lieutenant of the flagship *Bristol*, in the West Indies, and was appointed to the *Baldy* by the Commander-in-Chief of the North America and West Indian station. Sir Peter Parker, Commander Nelson, as he then was, put a pride in him, it is said, such as never afterwards experienced in any of the magnificent ships he commanded, and when, in less than a year (later to this year), he was posted to the *Hinchin*, the gallant and excellent man who afterwards became Lord Collingwood and died in the little harbour of Nore, under the command of Cuttibert Collingwood, when Lord Nelson was married to the beautiful *Alma*, 1801, he met with a poor little chap, "Well, sir, I am going to race to the masthead, and beg that I may meet you there," so aloft he went, his spindle displaying the greatest activity, and in the tiny top he met his middies, who had swarmed up the rigging on the opposite side. This friendly act quite cured their alarm. A mention of the same *Baldy* is present in the history of the little harbour of Nore, under the command of Cuttibert Collingwood, when Lord Nelson was married to the beautiful *Alma*, 1801, he met with a poor little chap, "Well, sir, I am going to race to the masthead, and beg that I may meet you there," so aloft he went, his spindle displaying the greatest activity, and in the tiny top he met his middies, who had swarmed up the rigging on the opposite side. This friendly act quite cured their alarm. A mention of the same *Baldy* is present in the history of the little harbour of Nore, under the command of Cuttibert Collingwood, when Lord Nelson was married to the beautiful *Alma*, 1801, he met with a poor little chap, "Well, sir, I am going to race to the masthead, and beg that I may meet you there," so aloft he went, his spindle displaying the greatest activity, and in the tiny top he met his middies, who had swarmed up the rigging on the opposite side. This friendly act quite cured their alarm. A mention of the same *Baldy* is present in the history of the little harbour of Nore, under the command of Cuttibert Collingwood, when Lord Nelson was married to the beautiful *Alma*, 1801, he met with a poor little chap, "Well, sir, I am going to race to the masthead, and beg that I may meet you there," so aloft he went, his spindle displaying the greatest activity, and in the tiny top he met his middies, who had swarmed up the rigging on the opposite side. This friendly act quite cured their alarm. A mention of the same *Baldy* is present in the history of the little harbour of Nore, under the command of Cuttibert Collingwood, when Lord Nelson was married to the beautiful *Alma*, 1801, he met with a poor little chap, "Well, sir, I am going to race to the masthead, and beg that I may meet you there," so aloft he went, his spindle displaying the greatest activity, and in the tiny top he met his middies, who had swarmed up the rigging on the opposite side. This friendly act quite cured their alarm. A mention of the same *Baldy* is present in the history of the little harbour of Nore, under the command of Cuttibert Collingwood, when Lord Nelson was married to the beautiful *Alma*, 1801, he met with a poor little chap, "Well,